



## PRIME MINISTER

Joint statement by the Prime Minister, the  
Hon P J Keating, and the Minister for Land  
Transport, the Hon Bob Brown MP.

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPROVES \$47.4 MILLION FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RAIL PROJECTS

The Federal Government today approved the \$47.4 million first instalment in its *One Nation* upgrading program for South Australian railways. The funding will create about 1200 new jobs.

The largest single expenditure item is a \$45 million contribution towards converting the Adelaide-Melbourne railway line to standard gauge. A further \$2 million will be used to increase the height of eight bridges on the Adelaide-Kalgoorlie route to facilitate, in the long term, trains carrying double-stacked containers to operate with safe clearances.

Design work for the rail loop to be built adjacent to the Adelaide Outer Harbour No 6 container terminal will proceed following the release of \$400 000 of *One Nation* funding. Eventually, the \$8 million facility will help create an integrated ship, road and rail freight transfer facility.

The Prime Minister, Paul Keating, and the Minister for Land Transport, Bob Brown, said today that the combined effect of the Federal Government investment would be to enhance Adelaide's reputation as a transport hub serving much of Southern Australia.

'It is estimated that the Outer Harbour improvements alone will mean that 50 000 additional containers could be shipped through the Port of Adelaide, which will become an international terminal specialising in high priority containers under the *One Nation* strategy', Mr Keating and Mr Brown said in a joint statement.

All three projects announced today support the interstate freight operations of National Rail, the organisation which the Federal Government and the governments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia agreed to establish last year. National Rail will take over and manage all interstate rail freight services throughout Australia.

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Mr Keating and Mr Brown said the effects of this decision on the residual elements of Australian National would be announced within the context of the Federal Budget.

They said the \$45 million to be spent on converting the line between Adelaide and Melbourne would meet the cost of supplying and installing concrete sleepers on the section from Adelaide to Kiki, track and crossing loop conversion and some work in connection with acquiring STA track.

'From Kiki to the border, existing timber sleepers will be replaced with gauge-convertible concrete sleepers under an existing Federal Government project. Concrete sleepers have the advantages of reduced maintenance costs and fewer speed restrictions'.

Mr Keating and Mr Brown said that following installation of gauge convertible sleepers, one rail on the line would be moved inwards to conform with the standard gauge measurement of 1435 mm. This would take place over a two and a half week period early in 1994.

'Rail clearances will be increased between Adelaide and Kalgoorlie by raising the height of bridges or lowering the track at eight locations in the long term. This will facilitate trains carrying double-stacked containers in well wagons while maintaining safety clearances'.

Mr Keating and Mr Brown said the revitalisation of rail transport under *One Nation* were supported by other government initiatives, such as waterfront reform and more streamlined administration of the road transport industry.

'All these measures will have far-reaching effects on transport efficiency and Australia's ability to compete effectively in world markets, particularly in those commodities with a high transport cost component', they said.

**Sydney**  
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# ONE NATION EARLY START PROJECTS PERTH TO ADELAIDE

